THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro irrigation to be implemented during the Tenth Five Year Plan, with the objective of increasing the coverage of area under drip and sprinkler irrigation in the country from the current level of 20 lakh hectare (6 lakh hectare under drip and 14 lakh hectare under sprinkler irrigation). The Scheme envisages financial assistance to the beneficiaries @ 50% of the cost of the system.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) An area of 6.2 lakh hectares is proposed to be brought under micro irrigation during the Tenth Plan period under the scheme.

Subsidy for Micro Irrigation

1836. SHRI C. PERUMAL:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide 50 per cent subsidy for micro irrigation projects such as sprinkler and drip irrigation systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government will bear the total expenditure; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro irrigation to be implemented during the Tenth Five Year Plan with the objective of increasing the coverage of area under drip and sprinkler irrigation in the country for increasing crop productivity with efficient use of available water resources and to develop the skill of farmers and field functionaries through Human Resource Development (HRD). The scheme envisages assistance to farmers @ 50% of cost of the system.

(c) and (d) As per the Scheme, the financial assistance is to be shared jointly between the Centre and State Governments in the ratio of 80:20.